

ALFALFA FOR LIVE STOCK.
Good Results from Feeding It to Cattle,
Sheep and Hogs.

The best results are obtained from feeding cattle on alfalfa, and sheep and cattle will fatten on it in spring and summer, and keep in good condition in winter. Alfalfa does not freeze out as red clover does in the east, and for this reason it is a most satisfactory crop in cold climates. Fed to hogs alfalfa prevents many diseases which might result from a too exclusive grain diet, and hogs never die of hog cholera that are fed on alfalfa. Turned in the field, in the autumn time they gorge themselves with the rich, succulent grass, and in the winter time they enjoy the hay and silage made from it. They look better than those hogs which are fed on corn all the year round, and their pork is certainly sweeter and more succulent.

Sheep fattened upon alfalfa can be sold directly to the shippers and butchers at good prices. Many of these prefer steers fattened on alfalfa to those fattened on corn, and the meat is considered much sweeter and juicier. When fed to milk cows the grass and hay will only make them sleek and fat, but it gives a larger amount of milk, cream and butter.

By eating on the native organs, the cattle become accustomed to the whole system. After having tried cheap feed, Timothy and clover, I am of the opinion that alfalfa exceeds them all in increasing the milk flow. There are many who differ from this view.

Sheep are likewise benefited by the crop, and they live luxuriously upon the lush, succulent grass. Probably there is no cheaper grass to rear the sheep, as it is a great growth and a natural food.

It requires double quantity of time and expense given to it. Besides furnishing good feed for nearly all of the domesticated animals, it increases the soil with its long, intricate roots, which readily penetrate down into the soil and penetrate to the lowest depth of the subsoil.—E. P. Smith in American Cattle.

GATEWAY IN A COLD COUNTRY.
Mr. Cochran has at his Mountain creek ranch the oldest Galloway herd in America. In 1864 he brought out his ten brothers direct from Scotland; later he bought a whale herd from J. D. McGregor, of Brandon, and has possessed several of the most strains of blood. He makes a point of distinguishing his cattle, giving them names, and keeping every two or three years. While he has 1,300 to 1,400 cattle on his range, he has found Galloways the most productive. They are so hardy they raise their young where others starve, and there is seldom a loss in the breeding season. Mr. Cochran has had 100 per cent increase in the seasons. Being short in the leg and the calf less than in other cattle, when killed they give a greater percentage of dressed meat, while the flesh is of excellent quality and the skin makes a valuable robe, being a good substitute for a buffalo robe.

The Galloways are highly prized in Manitoba, where in the severest winter they speedily convert the straw stacks—an encumbrance in that province—into the finest of beef. In Alberta they are found equal to all emergencies, bearing always lively, masterful and good feeders, and whether on the range or in the town they are always kind and gentle and quiet with those in charge of them. Mr. Cochran has about 150 of them at his ranch.—North-West (Winnipeg) Farmer.

PROFITS OF SHEEP.
In December, 1892, Mr. Holcomb, of Providence, N. D., bought 100,000 sheep, which cost him \$100,000. From this flock he shipped in 1893, 6000. From this flock he shipped in 1893, 1,720 pounds of wool; in 1894, 2,500 pounds, and in 1895, over 2,000 pounds. The wool clip for 1894 and 1895 brought him \$7000; that of this year is estimated to be worth \$4000, making a total of \$11,500 realized from the wool clip. In addition he has sold 100 lamb and slaughtered for his own use twenty-five head. His total wool and sheep for the year will bring him a sum amounting to nearly \$10,000, in less than three years. His original flock of 200 has now increased to 314 sheep and 110 lambs.—Jamestown (N. D.) Alert.

LIVE STOCK FEEDS.
The Leghorn is undoubtedly the best for eggs alone. Another recommendation for it is that it consumes less feed than other breeds of greater size.

Set the children to hunting the nests and hiding places of the English sparrows and exterminate them. A writer suggests that they should be killed in finally nests out. At any rate even former and live stock raising ought to begin to fight the English sparrows as determinedly as a good housekeeper fights bed bugs.

When you are exercising your horses normally by walking or driving in cool weather, blanket them over the chest and loins in the intervals when they stand still.

Cold weather is coming. Prepare plenty of nests and clover hay for your sheep. They will repay this care in the spring.

These are so fond of charlock seeds that if they are fed to a cold pile they eat quantities of it.

The live stock shows at the World's Fair will take place in installments, so that the same animals may not be seen so long on the ground.

The country roads in France are so good that each horse hauls from two to three tons. The tires of wagons for heavy teams are six inches wide. The forward axles are shorter than the hind ones, so that they are not so much danger of rats from wheel after wheel after rolling in the same track. If we had such country roads here farmers would not need to keep in many horses.

By way of commenting on a Quaker lady writer's remark that and cheering in exercise enough for some, The Rural New Yorker wonders if to have cheering in exercise enough for man.

AGRICULTURAL INVESTIGATIONS.
The editor of The Rural New Yorker worked for ten years with leading agricultural bodies before he realized one that he deemed worthy of investigation.

He speaks volumes for the day school at the Vermont experiment station that it has now as a student the former author who took a prize at the great food show.

Picking ducks are the best layers, but do not fatten so readily as some others.

It is reported that Wyoming offers a salary of three dollars for each wolf head, but the pests have lately become so numerous that the cattlemen have offered an additional bounty of five dollars a head.

Drying sweet potatoes and grinding the chips into flour promises to become a new industry.

VANILLA FLAVOR.

The Plant Grows Naturally in Mexico.
Not Cultivated Elsewhere.

The vanilla bean which gives our most popular and delicate flavor for chocolate and confectionery, cakes and other choice candies, is the product of a species of orchid, the name coming from the Spanish, vanilla, meaning a small pod. There are in fact several species of the plant which give a flavor of more or less value, though that which is most prized, and which yields the standard vanilla of commerce, is the vanilla planifolia, a native of Mexico, but which is now cultivated in several tropical countries. As it requires hot weather and a good deal of it, this orchid cannot be domesticated in temperate regions.

The plant still grows naturally in Mexico, and is also cultivated from cuttings, for which purpose slips from three to five feet in length are employed. The roots are cut in the earth to the depth of four inches, the upper part being trained to some support. Mexican plants grow at the root of a small tree, to which the twining stem, but in other countries a rough trellis is the more general support.

The cuttings take root within a month, but they do not bear fruit till three years of age, after which they continue to produce for thirty years or more. The pods grow to a length of from six to twelve inches and are about half an inch in diameter. They reach full size in a month after formation, but require some months for ripening.

When properly ripened, which is shown by the cracking of the pod between the fingers, they are cut off separately, placed in a damp under-shade shelter, and then begin to shrivel, after which they are subjected to a sweating and fermenting process, which develops the flavor of the beans. The sweating is done by exposure to the hot sun or to artificial heat of 110 degrees during the day, and including in an air-tight box through the night.

This can be accomplished in a day or two, giving the fine brown color desirable in the pods, after which they are dried in the sun for about two months. For marketing they are tied up in packets of uniform length and size. The manipulation varies somewhat in different localities, but the essential process remains the same.—Newton Norton in Good Housekeeping.

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